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54/07/06 Hunt For Blood Clews In Killing Of Doctor's Wife

Cleveland News

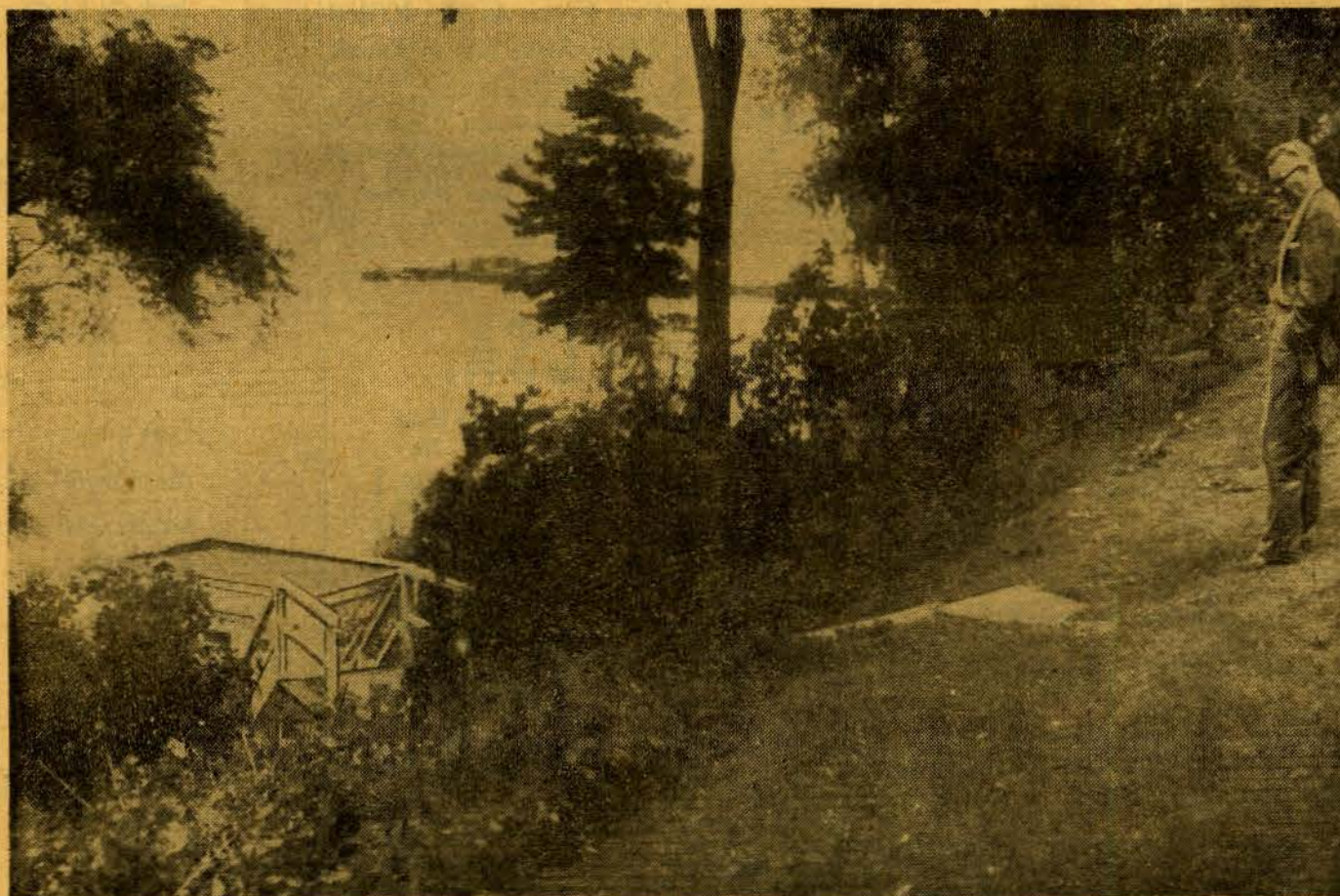
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HUNT FOR BLOOD CLEWS IN KILLING OF DOCTOR'S WIFE



Howard Beaufait, News' staff writer, inspects the path believed followed by the murderer of Mrs. Marilyn R. Sheppard after escaping from the victim's home at 289 24 Lake Rd., Bay Village. The stone steps (left) lead to a beach house and to the beach itself.

Slayer Is Tall, Bushy-Haired, Sheppard Says

BY HOWARD BEAUFAIT

A pair of trousers were being examined today for blood stains under an infra red camera in the morgue laboratory as search for the vicious killer of Mrs. Marilyn Sheppard, attractive Bay Village housewife, entered its third day.

Coroner Samuel R. Gerber said the trousers were worn by the victim's husband, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, prominent osteopath and brain surgeon, the night his wife was beaten to death.

Other developments in the bizarre and violent crime reported by investigators were:

DR. SHEPPARD, recovering from bruises and a fractured neck vertebra at Bay View Hospital, gave investigators a meager description of the man he said beat his wife to death and attacked him.

CORONER GERBER and Deputy Sheriff Carl Rossbach, heading the murder investigation, said Dr. Sheppard originally told them it was "too dark" to get a good look at his wife's slayer.

A WHITE T-SHIRT worn by Dr. Sheppard Saturday night when he fell asleep on a downstairs couch at his home, 28924 West Lake Rd., is still missing.

SEARCH FOR THE WEAPON, believed to be a square metal rod about 18 inches long, continued without success.

WILLIAM J. CORRIGAN, well known criminal lawyer, was retained to give legal advice to Dr. Sheppard.

APPROXIMATELY 30 CUBIC centimeters of demerol, a synthetic morphine, are missing from Dr. Sheppard's medical bag.

POLICE ARE AGAIN questioning all friends and acquaintances of the Sheppards in the presence of a stenographer and reducing their testimony to written statements.

TWO CHIPS FOUND under the body of Mrs. Sheppard fitted perfectly two of her splintered front teeth. It was at first believed the slayer's teeth had been chipped.

POLICE CHIEF JOHN EATON of Bay Village has reopened an investigation of a series of burglaries in the western suburb last February for a possible clew to the killer. He also ordered all vagrants in the suburb picked up for questioning.

A 22-YEAR-OLD RETARDED youth from Toledo was picked up for questioning at Sheffield Lake, but was not regarded as a likely suspect by Chief Eaton.

A BRAIN SPECIALIST, Dr. Charles Elkins, assistant professor of neuro-surgery at Western Reserve Medical School, examined Dr. Sheppard for possible brain injury. He said he found a "concussion of the spine" which had caused a slight numbness in Dr. Sheppard's left hand.

DARK, REDDISH BROWN stains on the gold flexible band of Dr. Sheppard's wrist watch are being examined by morgue technicians for blood stains.

HOMICIDE DETECTIVES said Dr. Sheppard told them that a man who had visited at his home had "become enamored" of Mrs. Sheppard, but that she had repulsed his advances.

Deputy Rossbach said the following conversation took place during his questioning of Dr. Sheppard at the hospital in the presence of Attorney Corrigan:

"Can you give us any description of the man who

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Blood Clews Sought In Probe of Slaying

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killed your wife?"

"Well, he was taller than I am, about three inches taller."

"What would you say his weight was?"

"Average weight."

"And his age?"

"Average age."

"What was this man wearing?"

"I saw a white shirt."

"What was the color of his hair?"

"Dark, bushy hair."

"What happened to the T-shirt you were wearing Saturday night?"

"I have no idea."

Attorney Arthur E. Petersilge, who represents the hospital owned by Dr. Richard A. Sheppard and his three osteopath sons, interrupted Rossbach to observe: "You can see for yourself, he's incoherent."

At this point of the questioning Attorney Corrigan said Dr. Sheppard did not appear to be in condition for further interrogation.

When Corrigan emerged from an hour's conference with Dr. Sheppard he was asked if he had been employed as counsel for the injured osteopath.

"I have been retained by Petersilge, attorney for the Sheppards and the hospital," Corrigan said. "Dr. Sheppard felt he needed legal advice after talking with detectives."

Brother Intervenes

Dr. Stephen Sheppard, who is acting as his brother's physician, said:

"My brother is not ready yet to stand the emotional upset that would result from further questioning. His mind is not yet lucid."

Dr. Stephen said X-rays, which first appeared negative, had shown a slight fracture of the fifth vertebra at the base of Dr. Sam's neck. He will have to wear a neck brace for six to eight weeks.

"He is not ready for questioning today," Dr. Stephen Sheppard said. Perhaps he can be questioned after his wife's funeral tomorrow."

Burial in Knollwood

Mrs. Sheppard will be buried in Knollwood Cemetery Wednesday afternoon following private services in Saxton Funeral Home, 13215 Detroit Ave., Lakewood.

Coroner Gerber said Dr. Sheppard's trousers being examined in the laboratory are a corded twill material. On the right leg, between the knee and the hip, he said there appears a large faded stain.

The trousers were wet when they came into Dr. Gerber's possession. Dr. Sheppard told investigators that he had been knocked unconscious by his wife's assailant and when he came to he was lying face down in Lake Erie, a few feet from his private boathouse.

Morgue technicians who examined the body of Mrs. Sheppard said 25 head wounds had been made with "fury."

Victim's Finger Broken

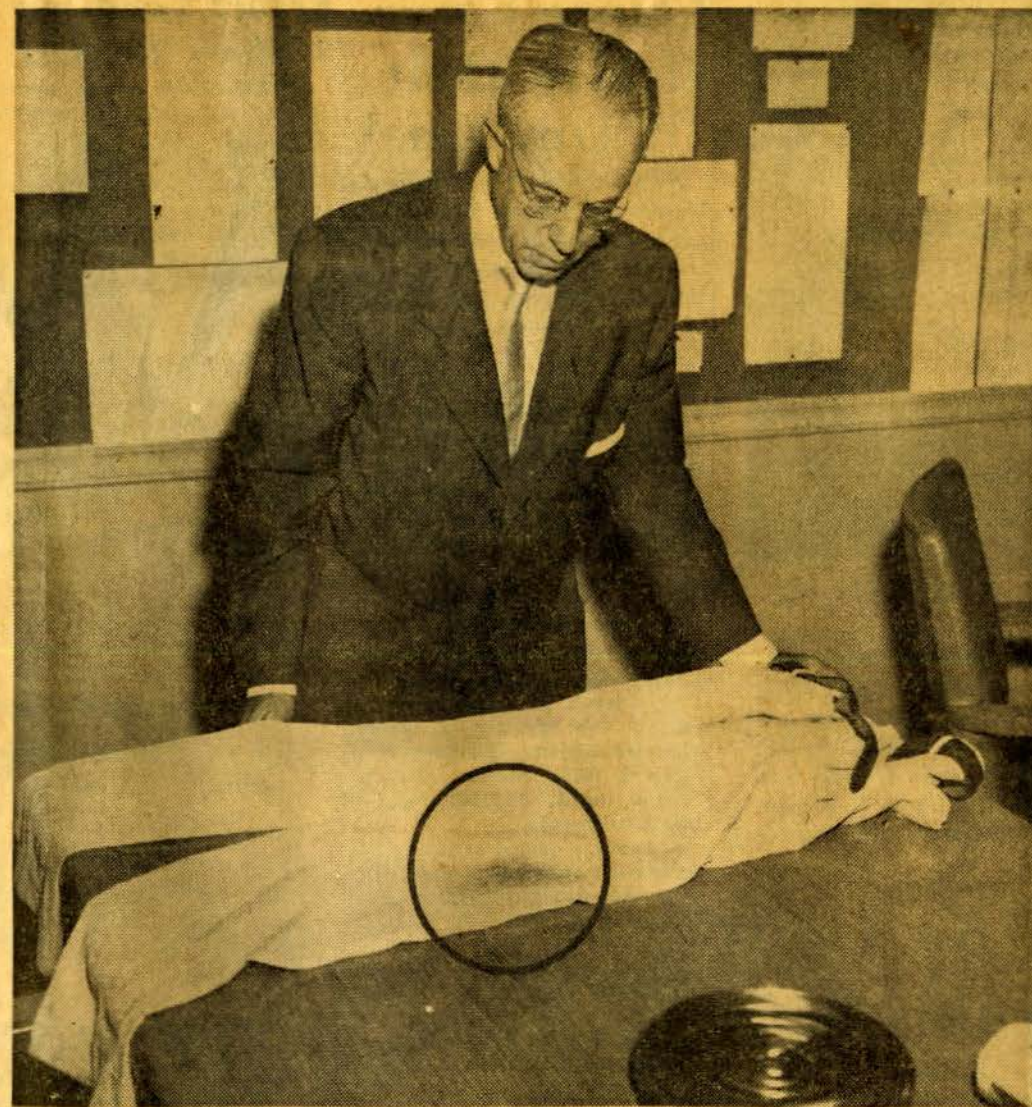
In attempting to defend herself from the blow that fell on her head as she lay in her bed, Mrs. Sheppard apparently threw up her arms and hands to cover her face. The little finger of the right hand was broken and the wrist badly lacerated. The left hand and wrist were similarly bruised and smashed.

Also under examination for blood stains in the laboratory is Dr. Sheppard's wrist watch which was found with his fraternity ring, a gold chain, keys and a football charm, in a green bag not far from the house.

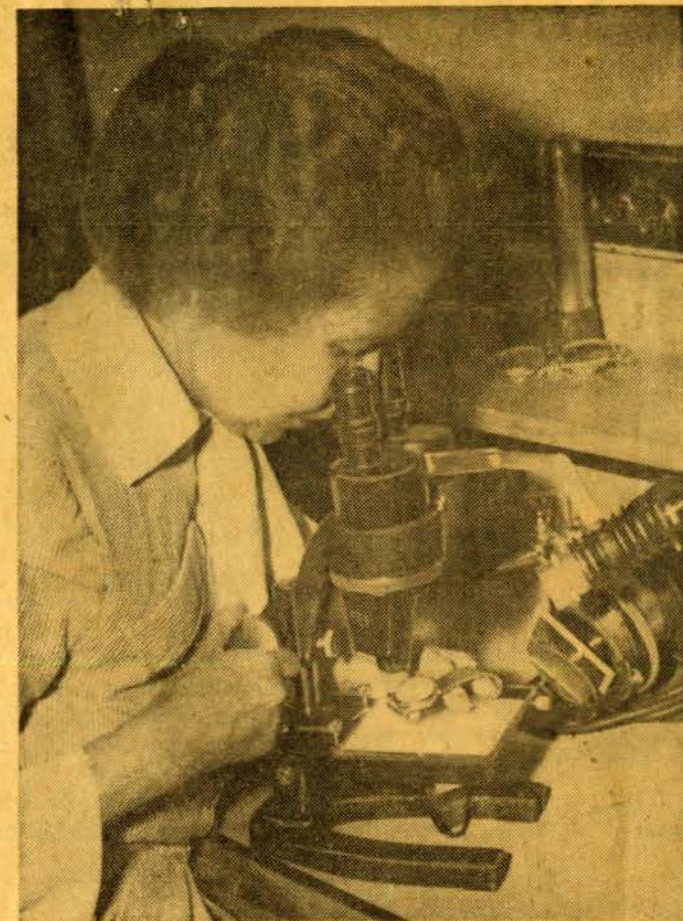
Dr. Gerber said it appeared that someone stood at the top of the cliff in front of the house and threw the bag toward the lake. It landed in the underbrush, 15 feet from the boathouse.



Patrolman Gerhard H. Deutschlander stands guard at door to room occupied by Dr. Samuel H. Shepard in Bay View Hospital.



Coroner Samuel R. Gerber examines trousers for blood stains (circle).



Laboratory Technologist Mary Cowan places wrist-watch under morgue microscope.